

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section
5 27-6 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-6) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-6)

7 Sec. 27-6. Courses in physical education - Special
8 activities.

9 (a) Pupils enrolled in the public schools and State
10 universities engaged in preparing teachers shall, as soon as
11 practicable, be required to engage daily, during the school
12 day, in courses of physical education for such periods as are
13 compatible with the optimum growth and development needs of
14 individuals at the various age levels except when appropriate
15 excuses are submitted to the school by a pupil's parent or
16 guardian or by a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act
17 of 1987 and except as provided in subsection (b) of this
18 Section.

19 Special activities in physical education shall be provided
20 for pupils whose physical or emotional condition, as determined
21 by a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act of 1987,
22 prevents their participation in the courses provided for normal
23 children.

24 (b) A school board is authorized to excuse pupils enrolled
25 in grades 11 and 12 from engaging in physical education courses
26 if those pupils request to be excused for any of the following
27 reasons: (1) for ongoing participation in an interscholastic
28 athletic program; (2) to enroll in academic classes which are
29 required for admission to an institution of higher learning,
30 provided that failure to take such classes will result in the
31 pupil being denied admission to the institution of his or her
32 choice; or (3) to enroll in academic classes which are required

1 for graduation from high school, provided that failure to take
2 such classes will result in the pupil being unable to graduate.
3 A school board may also excuse pupils in grades 9 through 12
4 enrolled in a marching band program for credit from engaging in
5 physical education courses if those pupils request to be
6 excused for ongoing participation in such marching band
7 program. A school board may also excuse pupils in grades 9
8 through 12 enrolled in a Reserve Officer's Training Corps
9 (ROTC) program sponsored by the school district from engaging
10 in physical education courses. A school board may also excuse
11 pupils in grades 9 through 12 from engaging in physical
12 education courses if (i) the pupil is getting substantial
13 physical activity from participating in athletic training and
14 competition in a sport under the auspices of a national
15 governing board that is recognized by and affiliated with an
16 international sports federation, (ii) the pupil has
17 competitively placed in the top 10 of the competitors in State,
18 regional, or national competitions of the sport, (iii) the
19 parent or guardian has provided documentation of such training
20 and recognition, and (iv) the pupil completes alternative
21 coursework in physical education, as determined by the school
22 district. School boards which choose to exercise this authority
23 shall establish a policy to excuse pupils on an individual
24 basis.

25 (c) The provisions of this Section are subject to the
26 provisions of Section 27-22.05.

27 (Source: P.A. 88-269; 89-155, eff. 7-19-95; 89-175, eff.
28 7-19-95; 89-626, eff. 8-9-96.)

29 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
30 becoming law.